

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Group II, claims 41-44, in the reply filed on 12/12/08 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)). Therefore, non-elected claims 1, 7-8, 12-40 and 45 should be canceled.

SUPPLEMENTAL EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended to meet a condition for allowance as follows:

Cancel claims 1, 7-8, 12-40 and 45.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 41-44 are allowed.

Claims 41 and 43 are independent claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claims 41, and 43, the present invention from the current application discloses a printing method and apparatus for “estimating a color space according to the image data based on the information which indicates an apparatus which has generated the image data; specifying a color space according to the image printing apparatus; and converting the obtained image data

so that a definition according to the estimated color space becomes a definition according to the specified color space”.

The closest prior art such as Komiya et al. (US Patent No. 7443539) and Yoshida (US Patent No. 7,414,750), which is recorded on the Examiner's Citation of Pertinent Prior Art below, discloses the color profiles for input and output devices. However, from the prior art above, either separately or in combination, including an updated electronic text search, fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Komiya et al. (US Patent No. 7443539) discloses color correction preprocessing unit combines the input image data and various information necessary for creation of an input profile into an image format that allows color corrections on changes in color due to the effect of lighting, the image format being referred to as the lighting convertible image format. The color correction unit causes input and output profiles to operate on the lighting convertible image data from the preprocessing unit 3c to produce color-corrected image data, which, in turn, is outputted (displayed or printed) from the image output device.

Yoshida (US Patent No. 7,414,750) discloses The ICC profile is so called "history" in which color space and characteristics of each input/output device are written. The color management system on a personal computer determines the characteristics of each input/output device using the ICC profile and performs transaction of color data with the input/output device. This color data has been subjected to color correction so that colors between two input/output devices are apparently the same for the human eye.

Contact information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7442. The Examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Apr. 24, 2009

/Douglas Q. Tran/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625